

Marta PARDO TORRES

Exchange Study Programme Industrial Engineering Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

1. Coming from Universidad de Sevilla, why did you choose to study for one year at Centrale Nantes?

I've always heard about Centrale Schools in France, about how good they are preparing engineers. So, as soon as I had the opportunity to study one year at Centrale Nantes, I said yes without blinking!

2. Which programme did you follow at Centrale Nantes?

I did the third year so I had lessons until March and then I did a five-month-internship at Airbus. The specialisation I followed was Industrial Engineering.

3. What did you think about the courses?

I think there was a good level and a lot of practice, which made lessons more interesting. Also the organisation was really good: I always knew where to go and I could check the timetable online easily!

4. How different is the French education system?

Well, the biggest difference is that they have a preparation before the university (called "classes préparatoires") so they have a lot of knowledge on Mathematics and Physics while we learn it all directly at the University.

5. Courses were in French: how difficult was it to follow?

I already had a B2 level but anyway, courses were difficult to follow at the beginning due to the technical vocabulary. However, having lessons in French is also the best way to improve quickly. After a few weeks, I started to understand almost everything.

6. What do you do now? What are your plans?

I have one year left to finish my studies in Spain and then I would like to study a Master abroad. I know that my year at Centrale Nantes had given me a lot of opportunities so I hope to enjoy all them!

7. Do you think your exchange programme at Centrale Nantes helped you to define your professional goals for the future?

Totally! At Centrale Nantes I chose an option called "Manager, leader et communicateur" for the first semester. After that, I know that's the way I would like to start developing my professional career, by being a manager myself. I found it really interesting.

8. According to you, what is the best thing about studying abroad?

All the things you learn every day in the aspects of your day-to-day life. Obviously, the academic aspect is important, but you will also learn so many things about how to manage your life in a foreign environment. The second aspect is everything you'll discover about a new country and a new culture. And finally, the new people you meet that will become very important persons in your life and that will be an essential part of your stay abroad.

9. Do you have any advice for international students thinking about coming to Centrale Nantes as exchange students?

Not too much, just enjoy every moment because you will miss it all once it is finished! I also encourage the students to explore the potential this School offers like the importance of associative life at Centrale Nantes.

10. Finally, can you tell me your best memory in Nantes?

My best memory is just all the people I met during my year in Nantes that helped me every time I needed it. The friends I made and all the time I spent with them working in school projects. They were always cheerful, up for a party and could always get me laughing in any situation with their good humour.

11. Anything else you would like to add?

I would recommend Centrale Nantes to everyone, it is a wonderful place to study!